



CALGARY

Weekly Newscasts Lesson Plan

March 7, 2016

Newscasts are current news stories read at a slower pace than you might hear on the radio. These are read by CBC news editor Natasha Frakes.

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase awareness of grammatical structures and functional language
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide a user-friendly, self-study tool for learners, as well as an ESL classroom resource for instructors

Contents:

Three news stories are featured in each weekly lesson plan. Each lesson contains vocabulary and listening comprehension activities. At the end of each lesson, you will find a complete transcript and an answer key. This lesson plan is aimed towards learners at an intermediate language level (i.e. Canadian Language Benchmarks 4-5 or equivalent).



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton, and the Government of Alberta. Lesson Plan is prepared by Deidre Lake, Communication4Integration Inc.

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NEWSCAST 1: CALGARY WOMAN DIES AFTER BEING GRANTED RIGHT TO PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE



Source <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/right-to-die-legislation-canada-calgary-sheilah-martin-supreme-court-1.3471363>

WARM UP

Look at the title. What does assist mean? What does suicide mean? Have you heard of physician-assisted suicide or physician-assisted death? If not, take a guess what it might mean.

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Review the vocabulary below before listening to the newscast.

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
receive	(verb) be given something
permission	(noun) consent; authorization; approval
end one's life	(phrase) spend your final days in a specific place
allow	(verb) to permit someone to do something; to be acceptable
paralyzed	(adjective) disabled; incapable of movement partly or wholly
affidavit	(noun) a written statement confirmed by oath, for use in court
suffering	(noun) undergoing pain, distress, or hardship
choke	(verb) have difficulty breathing because of an obstruction or lack of air
avid	(adjective) to have a keen interest in or enthusiasm for something
degenerative	(adjective) a disease that is progressive and irreversible; loss of function

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio Clip 0:10)

Now, listen to the first newscast for overall comprehension.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio Clip 0:10)

Listen to the newscast again. While you listen, follow along with the script.

A Calgary woman who received legal permission for a doctor-assisted death has ended her life in Vancouver with the help of two physicians.

It is believed she is the first person in Canada outside of Quebec to be allowed to legally end her life with help from a doctor.

The woman was called Ms. S in order to protect her privacy. She was in constant pain, almost completely paralyzed and was told her disease would kill her within six months. In an affidavit Ms. S wrote "I do not wish to continue suffering and to die of this illness by choking. I feel that my time has come to go in peace."

A retired clinical psychologist, Ms. S. worked in the health-care system in Calgary for 38 years. She was an avid hiker and an award-winning dancer. She was diagnosed with ALS – a degenerative neurological disease – in April 2013.

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

Check your understanding of the vocabulary. Choose the correct word for the spaces below.

receive	permission	end (one's) life	allow	paralyzed
affidavit	suffering	choke	avid	degenerative

1. After the accident he became partially _____.
2. John started to _____ while eating a hot dog. It was a frightening experience. Thankfully, he was okay.
3. We have a signed _____ stating that the two men were seen entering the building.
4. They entered the country without _____.
5. She is an _____ photographer of wildlife and nature.
6. After he _____, his family and friends learned that he was _____ from depression.
7. That nightclub doesn't _____ people that are wearing jeans with tears or holes.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 3

Now that you are familiar with the details of this story, click play to listen to the CBC video coverage of this story at a normal rate of speech. Before listening, review the questions below.



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/right-to-die-legislation-canada-calgary-sheilah-martin-supreme-court-1.3471363>

VIDEO COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What was she the first person to do?
2. What did she have to do to get approval for a physician-assisted death?
3. What criteria did she have to meet?
4. Where does Canada stand in the legality of doctor-assisted death?
5. Which province allows physician-assisted death? How many people have taken their lives in this way?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Physician-assisted suicide is a controversial and complex topic. What do you think of physician-assisted death? Discuss with a friend or a colleague.

NEWSCAST 2 'RENTAL SCAM' LEADS TO OVERNIGHT DROP OFF IN OTTAWA DRIVEWAY



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/driveway-furniture-ottawa-left-mistake-1.3472495>

WARM UP

Look at the picture above. How is the man feeling in your opinion?

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Review the vocabulary below before listening to the newscast.

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
shovel	(verb) to move snow from a driveway with a shovel
U-Haul truck	(adjective) U-Haul is a moving and storage company
unload	(verb) remove stuff from a vehicle
dump	(verb) to dispose of something in a careless hurried way
scam	(noun) a dishonest scheme; a fraud
contents	(noun) things that are held or included in something
Kijiji	(noun) Kijiji is an online website for buying, selling, or trading things
belongings	(noun) personal items that belong to you; movable possessions
driveway	(noun) a short road from the street to a house or garage
empty	(adjective) containing nothing; not filled or occupied

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio clip 1:20)

Listen to the newscast for overall comprehension. After listening, try to describe what happened in your own words.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Now click the play button on the image and watch the video clip of the man above. The video clip is 1 minute and 40 seconds long. After watching, describe the man's feelings.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Discuss or consider the following questions.

- What do you think of this story?
- What would you do if you woke up to find someone else's belongings in your driveway?
- How would you feel if you were the victim of a rental scam?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 3

Now click the play button on the image below and watch the video clip of the man that works for the U-Haul company. The video clip is 50 seconds long. After watching, describe the man's feelings.



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/driveway-furniture-ottawa-left-mistake-1.3472495>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Discuss or consider the following questions.

- How did this man feel about the situation?
- What do you think of this man?
- What can you say about this man's character?
- In your opinion, is he a good employee? Why or why not?
- What did you think of this story?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 4 (Audio clip 1:20)

Listen to the newscast for a second time and describe the story again in your own words now that you have watched the two videos. After doing this, you may wish to refer to the script on page 9.

NEWSCAST 3: SYRIAN PARENTS WELCOME NEWBORN IN TORONTO



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/health/syrian-newborn-1.3473389>

WARM UP

Look at the picture above. What are they doing? How many children do you see? In your opinion, is this a large family?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio clip 2:53)

Listen to the newscast for overall comprehension. Use the space below to take notes.

SPEAKING ACTIVITY 1

With a colleague or on your own, describe what you understood.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio clip 2:53)

Listen to the newscast a second time. While you listen, respond to the questions below. Before listening, review the questions.

1. Why is the Syrian mother thanking healthcare workers in Canada?
2. Where did she have her previous child?
3. What is significant about this birth?
4. When was the baby born?
5. Where is baby Azhar now?
6. How many children does the Hammoud family have in total? How many girls? How many boys?
7. What would the father, Ali Hammoud like to do now that he is in Canada?
8. Were Ali's parents accepted into Canada?
9. What is the family grateful for?
10. What does Ali Hammoud say he hopes for his children?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Discuss or consider the following questions.

- What do you think of this story?
- What do you think of the size of their family?
- Do you think they will struggle to raise a family this size in Canada? Why or why not?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 3

Now that you have listened to the story, click to watch the video below. The video is 1 minute and 49 seconds in length. Make notes in the space below.



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/health/syrian-newborn-1.3473389>

NOTES

CONCLUSION

Review your responses to the questions in listening activity 2. Also, review the discussion questions. Is there anything you would like to add or comment on after seeing this video?

TRANSCRIPTS OF WEEKLY NEWSCASTS

	WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. This is Natasha Frakes. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of March 7th.	0:00
Newscast 1 Calgary woman dies after being granted permission to physician-assisted suicide http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/right-to-die-legislation-canada-calgary-sheilah-martin-supreme-court-1.3471363	<p>A Calgary woman who received legal permission for a doctor-assisted death has ended her life in Vancouver with the help of two physicians.</p> <p>It is believed she is the first person in Canada outside of Quebec to be allowed to legally end her life with help from a doctor.</p> <p>The woman was called Ms. S in order to protect her privacy. She was in constant pain, almost completely paralyzed and was told her disease would kill her within six months. In an affidavit Ms. S wrote "I do not wish to continue suffering and to die of this illness by choking. I feel that my time has come to go in peace."</p> <p>A retired clinical psychologist, Ms. S. worked in the health-care system in Calgary for 38 years. She was an avid hiker and an award-winning dancer. She was diagnosed with ALS - a degenerative neurological disease - in April 2013.</p>	0:10
Newscast 2 'Rental scam' leads to overnight drop off in Ottawa driveway http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/driveway-furniture-ottawa-left-mistake-1.3472495	<p>Kit Pullen woke up in the morning thinking he'd have to shovel some snow from his driveway. But that wasn't all he found. At some point in the night, a U-Haul truck pulled up into his Ottawa home and two men unloaded everything inside it.</p> <p>Pullen said, "It looks like it's the contents of somebody's house or apartment, dumped here at four o'clock in the morning by somebody in a U-Haul truck. Fortunately, we don't need the car this morning."</p> <p>An online rental scam appears to be the reason for the contents of someone's home being unloaded in Pullen's driveway. Nikki Wilson told CBC she posted an ad on Kijiji searching for a new home in Ottawa as she planned to move from Napanee, Ontario.</p> <p>U-Haul driver Richard Lalonde told CBC News that he left Wilson's belongings in the driveway because he could not reach her and needed the truck empty for another job that morning. He later received a text from Wilson saying, "You dropped off the stuff at the wrong place. It was a scam."</p> <p>That afternoon, he returned to pick up the load and took it back to Napanee. "It's just unfortunate," Lalonde said. "I wanted to make sure that everything is OK and for her to have her stuff back."</p>	1:20

<p>Newscast 3</p> <p>Syrian parents welcome newborn in Toronto</p> <p>http://www.cbc.ca/news/health/syrian-newborn-1.3473389</p>	<p>A Syrian mother who gave birth to one baby while fleeing the conflict of her home country is thanking health workers in Canada who helped her safely deliver another, after the family's arrival in Toronto.</p> <p>The new baby is believed to be one of the first children born to the 25,000 Syrian refugees who arrived under the current Liberal government.</p> <p>The baby was a premature delivery and was transferred to Toronto's Sick Kids hospital. Doctors at Sick Kids weren't sure the baby would survive. But baby girl Azhar, who was born on January 15th, did make it. She now lives with the rest of her large family in a spacious house in Mississauga, Ontario.</p> <p>Ali Hammoud and his wife Saadh already had ten children, but with the arrival of baby Azhar in January, the family now includes four girls and seven boys. The father of 11 told CBC News through a translator, "I had this number of children because it's common to have a large family."</p> <p>Now the Hammoud family is trying to settle into their new Canadian life. Ali would like to start taking English classes, but there's a waiting list. He also wishes his parents were allowed to come to Canada with his family, but their refugee application was turned down, he says.</p> <p>Still the Hammoud family is grateful for the new life they've been given. "I hope my children will have what we couldn't have," says Ali. "I want them to have dignity and freedom. We didn't have that in Syria, or in Lebanon."</p>	<p>2:53</p>
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ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 1:

A CALGARY WOMAN DIES AFTER BEING GRANTED RIGHT TO PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE

1. What was she the first person to do?
She was the first person in Canada outside of Quebec to be approved for a physician-assisted death.
2. What did she have to do to get approval for a physician-assisted death?
She had to go to court and prove that she met certain criteria to get it.
3. What criteria did she have to meet?
First, she had to prove that she was competent (of the right mind to make this decision on her own). Second that she had an irreversible medical condition. Finally, she had to consent to the end of her own life.
4. Where does Canada stand in the legality of doctor-assisted death?
It is still illegal to help someone bring about their own death; however, there are exceptions to the law when it involves a physician. The Supreme Court has told the country they have 12 months to come up with a new law. If the country does not create a new law, the Supreme Court will continue to review cases and to grant permission to those that meet the criteria.
5. Which province allows physician-assisted death? How many people have taken their lives in this way?
Quebec / About 20

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 2:

'RENTAL SCAM' LEADS TO OVERNIGHT DROP OFF IN OTTAWA DRIVEWAY

Non-applicable / NA

**ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 3:
SYRIAN PARENTS WELCOME NEWBORN IN TORONTO**

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio clip 2:53)

1. Why is the Syrian mother thanking healthcare workers in Canada?
She is thanking them for helping her safely deliver her baby.
2. Where did she have her previous child?
She had her previous child while fleeing her country.
3. What is significant about this birth?
It is the first baby to be delivered of the 25,000 Syrian refugees that arrived in Canada. / Also, it was premature and they didn't know if the baby was going to survive initially.
4. When was the baby born?
She was born in January.
5. Where is baby Azhar now?
She is at home with her family (in Mississauga, Ontario).
6. How many children does the Hammoud family have in total? How many girls?
How many boys?
11 – 4 girls and 7 boys
7. What would the father, Ali Hammoud like to do now that he is in Canada?
English classes / He would like to start taking English classes, but there's a waiting list.
8. Were Ali's parents accepted into Canada?
No, their application was turned down.
9. What is the family grateful for?
They are grateful for their new life in Canada.
10. What does Ali Hammoud say he hopes for his children?
Dignity and freedom / He says he hopes his children will have what they couldn't have - dignity and freedom as they didn't have that in Syria or in Lebanon."

Thank you for using Learning English with CBC. If you have any questions or comments, please email info@communication4integration.ca